

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-02 INR-05 PM-01 PRS-01 SP-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 USIA-01 /039 W

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R 110550Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3258

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3478

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH, SI, TH

SUBJ: MORE ON MAO TSE-TUNG'S HEALTH FROM THAI PRIME

MINISTER KHUKRIT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. DURING SINGAPORE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT ISTANA AUGUST 10 I HAD CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GOH KENG SWEE IN WHICH GOH PASSED ON FURTHER OBSERVATIONS OF MAO TSE-TUNG'S HEALTH AS PROVIDED SINGAPOREANS BY THAI PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT. IN MEETING WITH MAO, KHUKRIT FOUND THAT MAO HAD ENTIRELY LOST USE OF HIS TONGUE, AND COULD ONLY MUMBLE A FEW UNINTELLIGIBLE WORDS. YOUNG LADY NEXT TO MAO (WHO KHUKRIT TOOK TO BE A NURSE, BUT WAS PROBABLY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG) "LIP-READ" MAO'S COMMENTS, AND PASSED THESE ON TO ANOTHER YOUNG LADY, WHO ACCORDING TO KHUKRIT MADE SURE THAT THIS WAS INDEED WHAT MAO HAD SAID BEFORE TRANSLATING FOR KHUKRIT'S BENEFIT. A NOD FROM MAO WAS TAKEN TO BE AGREEMENT (I ASSUME SECOND YOUNG LADY WAS NANCY TANG). THUS KHUKRIT'S ESTIMATE THAT A KEEN BRAIN STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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OPERATED INSIDE MAO DESPITE MAO'S INARTICULATENESS WAS ENTIRELY DERIVED FROM WHAT THE YOUNG LADIES SAID, AND NOT FROM THE OLD GENTLEMAN HIMSELF.

2. GOH ALSO MENTIONED THAT AROUND 30,000 SINGAPOREANS HAVE VISITED THE PRC OVER THE YEARS. HE SAID THAT FOR THE MOST PART SUCH VISITORS WENT OFF WITH GREAT ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE PRC, BUT RETURNED THOROUGHLY DISILLUSIONED AND UNWILLING TO GO EVER AGAIN. IN TYPICALLY SINGAPOREAN COMMENT, GOH REMARKED THAT HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WESTERN VISITORS TO CHINA COULD NOT SEE THE REALITIES AS PLAINLY AS SINGAPORE CHINESE. HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

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